

CONFERENCE OF INGOs CONF/AG3(2024)Decisions

MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 14-16 October 2024

Decisions adopted

The meeting, which was chaired alternately by Gerhard Ermischer, President of the Conference and Geneviève Laloy, vice-President:

1. Approved the Draft agenda;
2. Took note of a series of recent decisions of the Standing Committee including: future regular meetings to be held with the various thematic committees; list of CINGO representatives to CoE bodies to be published, annual programme of work to be prepared in advance and published; increasing regular communication with all INGOs;
3. Approved the Report of the meeting of 8-10 April 2024 ([CONF/AG\(2024\)SYN1](#) and [CONF/AG\(2024\)SYN2](#)) and agreed to review practices to ensure timely availability of the results of the meeting (list of decisions adopted at the end of the meeting, meeting report concise enough to be available shortly after the meeting);
4. Held an exchange of views with Mr Gianluca Esposito, Director general of Human Rights and Rule of Law, took note of the various ways civil society can contribute to standard-setting, monitoring and cooperation activities; welcomed his proposal to immediately designate a central contact point in his team¹ to facilitate contacts with civil society organisations in future, and for CINGO to hold regular exchanges with intergovernmental committees in addition to the existing representation of the Conference in these committees;
5. Held an exchange of views with Ms Aoife Nolan, Chairperson of the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR) of the Council of Europe and took note in particular of the various ways INGOs can contribute and support the mechanisms of the European Social Charter (complaint system, promotion at national level); welcomed the suggestion of an annual exchange of views between CINGO and members of the ECSR and the commitment together with the Conference to hold a series of webinars to support the participation of CINGO members;

¹ The President referred to a letter received after the exchange, confirming the name of the contact person, Ms Katarina Nedeljkovic, Adviser to the Director General of Human Rights and the Rule of Law and the Director of Human Rights, email: firstname.name@coe.int. CINGO agreed that the President of CINGO should be copied in, of such direct communications.

6. Invited all INGOs to encourage their governments to participate to the fullest extent in the system of the revised European Social Charter and implement it².
7. Held an exchange of views with Ms Urska Umek, Head of the Democratic Institutions and Civil Society Division, on the Reykjavik Process and the implementation of the Secretary General's Roadmap on engagement with civil society, the role of the recently created CINGO Taskforce on Civic Space Watch and the need / ways for CINGO to be involved in the various CoE bodies.
8. Received information from Ms Cathy Wiseler, Deputy Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the Council of Europe, about the possible priorities under her country's upcoming Presidency of the Committee of Ministers (November 2024-May 2025);
9. Heard a report from M. Jeremy McBride, President of the Expert Council on NGO Law, on recent work and plans of the Council for upcoming studies and reports, including the periodic review of developments in standards, mechanisms and case law related to NGOs for the period since 2020;
10. Agreed in that context that additional efforts will be deployed to increase the visibility and recognition of the Expert Council's work;
11. Renewed the mandate of the President of the Expert Council for an additional period of three years;
12. Approved the creation of a [new Committee for the European Social Charter and its monitoring mechanisms](#) and the nomination of its co-chairs, Mr Pierre Klein, ATD Fourth World, and Mr. Peter Verhaeghe, Caritas Europa;
13. Heard oral presentations and updates on activities and plans by:
 - the Committee for interreligious & interconvictional Dialogue, including on a draft European Charter on Interconvictionality – [powerpoint presentation](#)
 - the Committee on NGOs as advocates for gender equality and women's rights, and took note of the call for further INGOs to get involved – [presentation by the subcommittee Women at the workplace](#) (English only)
 - the Committee on Migration Issues, and took note of its call to all INGOs to forward their areas of concerns to the Committee on-goingly; a questionnaire will soon be circulated to INGOs – [powerpoint presentation](#)
 - the Committee on Inclusive territories, environment and health – presentation – [intervention](#) (French only) and [presentation](#)and heard and discussed a proposal by FEDE for a Recommendation on History Teaching;
14. Held in the margins of the Session, a networking event for the thematic committees to present their work to INGOs interested;

² [European Social Charter](#) (ETS No. 35), adopted in 1961 and its [Additional Protocol of 1988](#) (ETS No. 128), [Revised European Social Charter](#) (ETS No.163), adopted in 1996 which embodies the earlier texts and new rights. See <https://www.coe.int/en/web/european-social-charter/about-the-charter>

15. Heard from the President a synthesis of relevant on-going CoE activities with regard to the follow-up action to the Reykjavik Summit Process, and from Ruth Allen a presentation on the findings of the recent consultation of members and the webinar of 1st October on future priorities;
16. Examined and approved its [Three-year Strategic Plan \(2024-2027\)](#);
17. Welcomed the proposal of the Standing Committee to prepare a workplan for 2025 to facilitate the planning of activities and implementation of the above strategy;
18. Heard a presentation by Ece Ciftci on desirable objectives and means to support a Youth-based approach in CINGO's work, and interventions by representatives of the Youth Sector / Youth Advisory Council;
19. Examined and approved a [Youth Strategy](#);
20. Heard a presentation on "Artificial intelligence and gender equality" by Dr. Amal Tawakuli, Chief Technology Officer and co-founder of Algora S.A., Luxembourg;
21. Examined and approved a [Gender equality Strategy](#);
22. Discussed and approved a [Recommendation on history education in Europe](#), based on a proposal by the Federation for European Education (FEDE) as revised by members of CINGO under the aegis of the Standing Committee, and entrusted the President to bring it to the attention of the Council of Europe bodies dealing with the subject;
23. Approved the dates for the next general assemblies as follows:
 - 7-9 April 2025 (spring session)
 - 13-15 October 2025 (autumn session)